

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10

ACDA-05 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /116 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5814

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: UN COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN COMMITTEE

REF: (A) USUN 475, (B) USUN 357, (C) USUN 119

1. ON FEBRUARY 10, CANADIAN MISOFF EDMUNDS INFORMED US OF REGIONAL CHAIRMEN'S MEETING OF THAT MORNING AT WHICH UNDER-SECRETARY BUFFUM PRESIDED. CANADIAN PERMREP RAE PRESENTED THE GENERAL VIEWS OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP (REF A) ON THE UN COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) COMMITTEE, THE VIEWS OF THE WESTERN NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES (NWS) AND THE VIEWS OF THE FOUR WEO'S WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE CTB COMMITTEE.

2. MALIK (USSR) SAID THAT A CLEAR DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN THE QUESTION OF THE NWS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CTB COMMITTEE. HE TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE FACT THAT THE VIEWS OF THE NWS HAD COME UP THROUGH THE

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REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMEN AND SAID THAT THE WEO GROUP WAS

HOLDING UP THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CTB COMMITTEE. IN EDMUND'S WORDS, MALIK "STONEWALLED ALL THE WAY."

3. KOH (SINGAPORE) SAID THAT LEGAL ARGUMENTS NOT-WITHSTANDING IT WAS POINTLESS TO ESTABLISH THE CTB COMMITTEE UNLESS AT LEAST TWO NWS STATES ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS. GUINEA-BISSAU REP SAID THAT WHILE THERE IS AN AFRICAN GROUP SLATE, NOT ALL THOSE LISTED WOULD TURN UP UNLESS THEY KNEW WHETHER NWS INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE.

4. UNDER SYG BUFFUM SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION IS OPEN TO MANY INTERPRETATIONS AND SO PERHAPS PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN LEGAL ONES. HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR FROM COMMENTS THAT SETTING UP CTB COMMITTEE MUST BE RELATED TO THE NWS NEGOTIATIONS. UNLESS MORE THAN ONE NWS TAKES PART, A NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY INTERESTED COUNTRIES WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. BUFFUM SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE SECRETARIAT NOT TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE RULING BUT RATHER TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES.

5. EDMUND'S SAID THAT IT WAS LEFT THAT THE GROUP CHAIRMEN WOULD EXPLAIN THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS TO THEIR GROUPS AND SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS. THE WEO GROUP IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

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